

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5314 AAC PAYMENTS ON ADVANCES FROM
THE FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT ACCOUNT**

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 Before

The Labor & Public Employees Committee

By The

Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce

Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce

Milford Chamber of Commerce

Lumber Dealers Association of Connecticut

Connecticut Messenger Courier Association

Connecticut Coalition Of Property Owners

Good Afternoon. My name is Marshall Collins. I am the Counsel for Government Relations for the above mentioned six organizations. Collectively these organizations have more than 4,000 member employers and those companies employ approximately 90,000 men and women in Connecticut.

Both individually and separately these Organizations strongly support HB 5314.

HB 5314 is a responsible approach to two temporary situations. First Connecticut employers are paying a surcharge on their unemployment charges to repay the federal government for Connecticut's borrowing during the worst of the recession. The surcharge was never intended to be permanent in that it is one more expense that increases the cost of doing business in Connecticut.

Second, Connecticut has a temporary amount of excess revenue, approximately \$500 million. With significant deficits projected for the next three years, any disposition of the excess revenue should not affect our long term fiscal situation.

Paying off the temporary surcharge, \$60 million, with a portion of the temporary excess revenue, is a common sense match. Since employers pay 100% of unemployment costs, passage of HB 5314 would reduce the cost of doing business to all employers while not affecting Connecticut's budget deficit.

Collectively, **these six organizations request that you favorably report HB 5314.** It is a small and fair step to make Connecticut a better place for employers of all sizes to create jobs. This completes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.